

Page 2, line 24, insert:

A4 -- BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Page 3, line 8, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

A5 This and other aims, according to the present invention, are achieved by producing a protective structure for vehicles, designed to be used particularly in the event of impact with pedestrians, according to claim 1, comprising a substantially linear front cross member (17A) comprising a unitary fillable internal chamber, where said front cross member is connected to lateral side members (22), and featuring at least one first absorber element (16), connected externally after the cross member (17A) on the bumper side of the vehicle.

Page 3, line 21, insert:

A6 -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Page 4, line 19, insert:

A7 -- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 as follows:

A8 Sub B2 1. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles, characterised in that it comprises a substantially linear front cross member (17A) comprising a unitary fillable internal chamber, wherein said front cross member is connected to lateral side members (22), and featuring at least one underlying laterally-placed first absorber element (16), connected externally after the cross member (17A) on the bumper side of the vehicle.

A9 Sub B2 3. (Amended) Protective structure for vehicles as in claim 1, characterized in that said cross member (17A) has a substantially straight geometrical structure which is fitted with curved